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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH: EDUCATION, HEALTH, DRUGS, HELD AT SAN DIEG0, CALIFORNIA, USA, FROM 29 TO 31 MAY 1998

Note by the Secretariat

The Conference secretariat has the honour to circulate to Conference partipants, as received and in the language of submission only, the attached report of the International Symposium on Youth: Education, Health, Drugs, which was held from 29 to 31 May 1998 at San Diego, California, United States of America, and hosted by the San Diego State University College of Health and Human Services, International Institute for Human Resource Development, School of Social Work.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
First Plenary Session-Opening Ceremony	3-5
Keynote Speakers	4-5
Second Plenary Session- Closing Ceremony	5-14
Keynote Speakers	5-6
Recommendations	
Preamble	6
Statement of Purpose	6-8
Workshop I Education	8-10
Workshop II Health	10-12
Workshop III Drug Use	12-13
Annex Proposed Contribution to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth	13-14

Introduction

The Government of Portugal, in cooperation with the United Nations, is convening a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth from August 8 to 12, 1998, in Lisbon, Portugal. This World Conference will host discussions among governmental participants on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1995. The World Conference will also consider new proposals on how governments can better implement the Programme of Action in cooperation with youth and youth-related organizations in more focused, intersectoral ways at the national, regional and local levels.

The International Institute for Human Resources Development, of the College of Health and Human Services at San Diego State University, and its cosponsors, convened an International Symposium from May 29 to 31, 1998, in San Diego to provide a forum to youth and youth-related organizations, as well as policy makers, planners and scholars, to discuss focused issues related to the agenda of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. More specifically, the International Symposium considered the question of youth education, health and drug abuse. Its main objective was to present its conclusions and recommendations to the World Conference, through the United Nations, and make a substantive contribution to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs. Participants at the International Symposium were requested to address the three issues of youth education, health and drug abuse within three independent Workgroups. The Secretariat made efforts to ensure that each of the three Workgroups did not propose recommendations that will duplicate or overlap with the recommendations of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

First Plenary Session- Opening Ceremony

Dr. Anita Harbert, Director of the School of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services at San Diego State University, welcomed the participants to the International Symposium. As co-Executive Coordinator of the Symposium, Dr. Harbert introduced the purpose of the Symposium, which is to discuss and identify steps to implement the Plan of Action for Youth as well as making a substantive contribution to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The deliberations of this Symposium will be formally presented to the Government of Portugal, through the United Nations, for consideration at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth take will be hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, August 8-12, 1998. On behalf of the co-Executive Coordinator, Dr. Tarek Shuman, Director of the International Institute for Human Resources Development, Dr. Harbert invited the Chair of the Symposium, Dr. Dolores Wozniak to welcome the participants.

Dr. Dolores A. Wozniak, Dean, College of Health and Human Services at San Diego State University made the welcoming statement. Citing past involvement and initiatives of the International Institute for Human Resources Development in international dialogue, Dean Wozniak reiterated her commitment to promote discourse on, and participation in, international issues. This International Symposium is but one of a series of partnerships with the United

Nations. She highlighted the participation and co-sponsorship of several UN Conferences which were hosted in Cairo, Bangkok, Paris, Copenhagen, Beijing and Hawaii. Dean Wozniak placed this Symposium, within the overall objectives of the International community and the objectives of the United Nations which is to promote participation by non-Governmental Organizations to salient international issues. The outcome of this Symposium will be transmitted to the Government of Portugal, through the United Nations, as a contribution to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs. Dean Wozniak invited the participants to enjoy the hospitality of San Diegans and wished them every success in their deliberations.

Keynote Speakers at Opening Ceremony

In the absence of Mr. Jorge Correia, who was scheduled to address the participants on behalf of the Government of Portugal, a transmitted message by His Excellency Mr. Miguel Fontes the Secretary of State for Youth, Government of Portugal, was read to the participants. In this message, Mr. Fontes expressed his gratitude to the International Institute for Human Resources Development, at San Diego State University, for hosting this International Symposium which will contribute to the
Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs. He emphasized the need for international solutions through policies that handle the concerns that face young people throughout the world today. In his message, Mr. Fontes expressed great expectations on the conclusions of the International Symposium and the contribution these can make to the decisions taken on behalf of the youth worldwide.

Dr. Margaret Kelley, Director of the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations, and the Secretary for the forthcoming Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Government of Portugal in co-operation with the United Nations) then addressed the participants and welcomed the initiative of the International Institute for Human Resources Development at San Diego State University in hosting this International Symposium. Dr. Kelley re-stated the statement made recently by the Secretary-General for the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, when he identified that "the challenges of our age are problems without passports; to address them we need blueprints without borders. The United Nations is there to provide them". Dr. Kelley reviewed some of the positive outcomes of International conferences hosted by the United Nations; outcomes that traverse borders and cultures. In this spirit of international concern, the outcomes and deliberations of this International Symposium --on global issues facing our youth-- will be embraced by the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that will be hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, in August of 1998. She encouraged the participants to contribute to drafting a "blueprint without borders".

The participants of the Symposium were then addressed by Mr. Girma Mulugetta, Associate Social Affairs Officer of the United Nations, Youth Unit. Mr. Mulugetta welcomed the participants and supported the initiative of the International Institute for Human Resources Development. He indicated the importance of the deliberations since they will be made available to the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth. As a representative of the United Nations Youth Unit, Mr. Mulugetta provided some history to the United Nations' concern with issues of youth. He specified some examples of activities that have been, and are being, carried out across the world. Mr. Mulugetta stressed that it is only through youth policies and programs

of action that Governments can effectively address youth problems and concerns.

As a representative of the National Youth Council, Mr. Benjamin Quinto, then addressed the participants and praised the initiative of the International Institute for Human Resources Development at San Diego State University. The perspective of the youth is rarely heard. Mr. Quinto cited statistics that show an increasing worsening of status and conditions of youth. Focusing on the national situation in the USA, Mr. Quinto highlighted needs within education and family. As a youth himself, he stressed the importance of the involvement and participation of his peers. Mr. Quinto urged his peers to provide comments, participate and to contribute to the success of this Symposium.

The participants were then addressed by Dr. Robert K. Ross, Director of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. Dr. Ross supported the involvement of the younger participants at the Symposium and encouraged them to fully participate in formulating the Recommendations of the meeting. He stressed the need for dialogue across generations and highlighted the fact that previous generations have often not adequately addressed the issues of youth.

Dr. Blair L. Sadler, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital & Health Center at San Diego, reinstated the need for dialogue. He stressed to the participants, the need for openness in dealing with sensitive issues affecting our youth of today. Dr. Sadler identified some issues which he has been addressing as the head of a children's hospital in San Diego and welcomed the participation and the contribution of youth to this Symposium.

Dr. Donald P. Lauda, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at California State University at Long Beach, transmitted a message to the participants to share in the spirit of the international community by focusing on the future of our world--our youth. Dr. Lauda, through his message, stressed the importance of finding strategies to engage people in such activities, and urged the Symposium participants to move humanity closer to a sustainable future for tomorrow's generations.

Second Plenary Session- Closing Ceremony

The Rapporteur General of the International Symposium, Dr. Mario Garrett, addressed the participants and read the recommendations that were proposed from each of the three Workshops. He introduced the role of the Secretariat in compiling and editing the final report and reiterated the purpose of the International Symposium; that of ensuring that each of the three Workgroups did not propose recommendations that will duplicate or overlap with the Recommendations of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

Keynote Speakers at Closing Ceremony

Dr. Ann Morey, Dean College of Education at San Diego State University commended the participants on their contribution to the International Symposium and. She highlighted some of the changes that have occurred in her lifetime and the potential changes that youth of today will experience and be a part of. Dr. Morey highlighted the need for the expansion of literacy

programs worldwide and the efforts to promote equitable education for every youth.

Ms. Sandra McBrayer, Executive Director of The Children's Initiative congratulated the participants on their substantive contribution to the International Symposium. In particular, she applauded the youth who participated and who ensured that their views were represented. Ms. McBrayer highlighted the need for youth to participate at such significant forums and that they should use this as an example of their potential to have a voice and to make changes to the world that they live in.

Recommendations

Preamble

The International Institute for Human Resources Development, of the College of Health and Human Services at San Diego State University, and its cosponsors convened this International Symposium from 29 to 31 May, 1998, in San Diego. This International Symposium provided a forum for more than 300 participants from youth-related organizations, as well as policy makers, planners and scholars, and individual youths.

Statement of Purpose

The main objective of the International Symposium was to present its conclusions and recommendations to the World Conference, through the United Nations. As a result, the goal of the International Symposium was to make a substantive contribution to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programs. With this in mind, the participants and the secretariat made all efforts to try and not duplicate Recommendations from the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

Participants at the International Symposium were requested to address issues of youth education, health and drug abuse within three independent Workgroups. The Secretariat took all precaution to ensure that each of the three Workgroups did not repeat recommendations. The discussions at each Workshop were promoted by speakers who presented formal papers which the Chair invited comments on from the floor. The speakers and topics were ;

Workshop I-Education
Chair: Dr. Ann Morey
Rapporteur: Dr. Loring Jones

- Dr. Gary L. Villereal, Ms. Amira Barham, and Dr. Daniel Frankl
  "Infrastructure for Training Workers and Youth Leaders"
- Mr. Larry Rosenstock
  "Vocational and Professional Training"
- Dr. Maria Zuniga
  "Training for Enterprise"
- Dr. David Smith, Dr. Connie Gibbons, and Dr. Emelia Martinez-Brawley
  "Promoting Mutual Respect, Understanding and Tolerance Among Youth"

Workshop II
Health
Chair: Dr. Patricia Wahl
Rpporteur: Benton Wahl

- Dr. Margaret Hughes
  "Health Services for Youth"
- Dr. John Elder
  "Development of Health Education for Youth"
- Dr. Larry Friedman
  "HIV Infection and AIDS Among Young People"
- Dr. Margaret Waller, and Dr. Dale M. Ahrendt
  "Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Young People"

Workshop III
Drug Abuse
Chair: Dr. Anita S. Harbert
Rapporteur: Dr. Annette Smith

- Mr. Girma Mulugetta
  "Drug Abuse: UN Activities"
- Mr. James Patrick O'Brien
  "Preventive Services"
- Dr. William Hitt
  "Treatment and Rehabilitation of Young People Who are Substance Abusers
- Dr. John Clapp, Ms. Louise Stanger and Ms. Marian Novak
  "Prevention Programming and Environmental Approach"
- Mr. James Baker
  "Government and Law Enforcement Role in Prevention"

The Recommendations that were generated by each Workshop endorsed and promoted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. All Recommendations stressed self-help and empowerment of youth in order for them to act on problems that impact upon them. Youth should be involved in all stages of planning, implementation and service delivery to ensure that programs and strategies will effectively serve the youth population. Governments, school administrators, and local authorities are urged to involve youth in policy development. This process will further empower youth as an element of change, at peer level as well as political level. Youth must be involved in decision-making councils and in the evaluation of programs to ensure appropriate and sustainable feedback. Local and national agencies are encouraged to promote employer and community support for programs that address the needs of youth. The participants further stressed the need to establish national youth policies and goals and to provide a mechanism for assessing their status.

The following statements reflect the consensus of the participants of the International Symposium and provide governments with recommendations for action. The participants welcomed the invitation of the Government of Portugal to consider these recommendations and

to contribute to the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration of Youth.

Education

1. Supporting educational programs that realize the aspirations of youth, educational programs need to be developed with less emphasis on competition, and more on participation. Such programs need to be made available at school and as an after-school activity aimed at personal growth which meet the needs of all youth and not at developing elite champions. Governments and local authorities are urged to require schools to provide appropriate training and education to all children, whatever their abilities, by focusing on individual improvement rather than individual achievement;

2. Recognizing the importance of educational content, there is a need to identify appropriate, and relevant curricula that is made accessible to youths from a wide range of needs and economic class. Local governments and international organizations need to identify and promote the dissemination of successful curricula that promote the aspirations of all youth, and provide incentives for schools to incorporate them within their teaching techniques;

3. Strengthening grass-root collaborations in the development and implementation of programs for youth, public and private partnerships need to be promoted by government. Such partnerships are to include youth organizations, private businesses, local agencies and youth themselves. Youth need to have a sense of ownership and be considered as equal partners in order for such partnerships to retain their original focus of serving their needs. These partnerships can promote, develop and implement local educational programs through fund-raising, sharing of resources (both staff and monetary), and sponsorships;

4. Recognizing that not all youths have the same opportunities, at-risk youth need long-term, and sometimes non-traditional, programs in order to provide them with the opportunity to benefit from educational programs. Longevity of programs is important in order for the activity to have an effect. Educational establishments are urged to sponsor programs for the long-term and to solicit long-term funding;

5. Improving standards as an ongoing activity, educational programs need to be evaluated in order for their effectiveness to be assessed. Through evaluation, government and local funding agencies will be in a position to ensure that their grantees have a valid and culturally relevant program. Youth need to have input into this process of evaluation;

6. Governments, local agencies, schools, and youth organizations are urged to further promote techniques that advocate for non-violence resolution, and techniques for coexistence. Such skills enable youths and group leaders to be effective facilitators and counselors. Both youths and adults should receive training in non-violence conflict resolution and mediation skills. Such training will ensure that conflicts are resolved at the early stages. To enhance such aims, government agencies are strongly encouraged to provide counselors with resources to enable them to refer

clients to services that they need;

7. Promoting non-violent stereotypes, government agencies are encouraged to involve the mass media in interventions techniques to promote non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Local and regional governments are urged to provide incentives and awards to those media organizations that promote non-violence;

8. Upholding the right of all people--regardless of race, gender, culture, creed or religion, geographic origin, sexual orientation, disability, political belief, economic class, or ethnicity-- to be involved in matters that concern them, it is urged that all educational programs and policies, from their inception, should be designed, developed, and implemented by all members of the community. Educational agencies are urged to develop curricula that include content on global cultures. Such emphasis can be determined, in part, by inviting the participation and involvement of different people living within the region. Such multi-cultural development can be further enhanced by school authorities encouraging students to learn more than one language at school. Such exposure should begin at pre-school age, with formal training programs to begin at early elementary classes;

9. Affirming that education should improve the quality of life, programs need to be aimed at encouraging children to focus on economic and cooperative learning problems which surround them. Schools must develop and implement educational strategies that reflect the social and economic problems that surround their students in their daily lives. As part of this approach, vocational education should not distinguish between education for "hand or mind." but that it should encompass a more practical and comprehensive focus. The role of education is to encourage self-promotion and development, enabling youth to become better prepared to gain from their own resources;

10. Investing in the resources of youth, governments and local authorities must stress the development of entrepreneurial skills. Such skills will contribute to alleviating the social and economic problems of the community by increasing economic activity, act as gang/crime diversion program, and retain students by providing practical application of their learning. Such entrepreneurial skills can be school-based micro-enterprise and supported through partnerships with local businesses and communities. Private companies can be encouraged to sponsor such programs being awarded subsides and tax incentives by governments and local agencies;

11. Appreciating that funds determine the longevity of programs, and affirming that public money may be needed as seed money to get programs launched, it is stressed that private sector money must be attracted in order to contribute to the sustainability of programs. One way for public sector to be involved is to provide tax breaks to private companies who support these programs with resources. Companies can establish entrepreneurial programs or provide internships which provide business skills to youth. Programs need to be implemented that reflect long-term commitment and permanent community program for youth. Governments and local authorities are urged to review the feasibility of tax incentives for companies and local businesses that provide this type long-term fiscal support;

12. Involving parents in the education of their children ensures appropriate oversight over this activity. Direct parent involvement can best be achieved through frequent teacher-parent communication. Parents need to be actively encouraged to participate on decision-making boards at schools, and local authorities;

13. Programs for youth should be developed and implemented in collaboration with community organizations, religious groups, and youth organizations and should be school-based ut not school-restricted.. The school should complement what the program does. The school facility can be used for these community programs after school-hours. Funding incentives should be provided by local governments to promote the utility of the school after regular school hours;

14. Governments and local authorities are urged to require schools to adopt conflict resolution methods which stress peaceful cooperative environments. Youth should get clear messages about what is acceptable in terms of behavior. Policies should stress integration and inclusion of children. Policies should not exclude children who begin to demonstrate problematic behavior but instead should seek to understand the underlying factors and then work with the individual to resolve them;

Health

15. Urge governments to address youth violence as a major health problem. Such conferred status will encourage efforts that promote support, prevention, policing, counseling, and education in order to reduce this endemic activity;

16. Strengthening government activities that promote dialogue about race and to address racism especially at institutional level by hosting forums among young people, parents, teachers, and health care providers. Schools are urged to adapt and adopt educational programs that include content and learning experiences about diverse populations;

17. Teachers and educators need to have more in-depth and involved training to ensure quality of their work. Governments and colleges are strongly urged to require minimum credentials for teachers and to provide continuing education training and continuing accreditation for teachers;

18. Effective parenting should be promoted as a goal of government and local agencies, youth advocacy organizations, and youths. Quality parenting should include the promotion of active fathering, family counseling and rehabilitation, family surrogates for gang members, peer parenting groups, self-help, and grass root problem solving. Governments, schools, hospitals, clinics and youth organizations need to develop and implement parenting sessions as part of post natal, school and pre-school activities and to develop refresher courses or "boosters" for middle and high school parents. Such programs should be developed that address the health and social challenges faced by pregnant and parenting adolescents. Promoting parenting skills and knowledge is a positive step towards ensuring healthy families;

19. School , hospitals, counseling programs, and community programs must be required to ensure that their curriculum reflect more gender equity and sensitivity, includes information about sexual abstinence, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases;

20. Governments, local authorities, schools, local businesses, and mass media must initiate tobacco intervention for youth, by using social inoculation, peer educators, skills based intervention, and train youth as trainers;

21. Hospitals, clinics, and health centers need to define STD's, HIV, drug abuse, and pregnancy as primary care. Health and community programs need to target youth that are disenfranchise with low self esteem, or struggling with sexual orientation, since these populations are more likely to engage in risky behavior. Governments need to assess the need and to identify such at-risk populations and to formulate strategies to prevent child and adolescence suicide. Governments should promote the development of training programs for health professionals which emphasize assessment of smoking, drug, and sexual activities of youth as they are seen from various medical problems;

22. Government agencies, especially health departments should promote programs that prevent and monitor the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Homeless people who cannot store medications should have access sites available. Governments are urged to adopt programs shown to be effective to reduce HIV transmission;

23. Government agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools and youth organizations need to address issues of perinatal infected teenager who became sexually active and to address behavioral problems that may increase risk of infecting others, by providing education to youth and physicians about local laws regarding condom distribution, birth control, and issues for gay & lesbian youth;

24. Governments should work collaboratively with the media and advertising agencies to develop local and national campaigns to disseminate factual information on establishing health lifestyles through responsible life choices;

25. Governments are urged to adopt legislation that condemn the exploitation of children and youth. The media should be engaged to raise the social conscious regarding injustices towards children and youth. Governments should develop program to support children so they are not forced to turn to survival sex;

26. Governments should limit access to guns among children in order to eliminate childhood violence;

27. Youth should not be conscripted into the military services or used in combat situations;

28. Governments are urged to ban the use of land mines;

29. Governments should repeal legislature which permit the persecution, imprisonment

and torture of homosexuals. Schools must be required to provide sensitivity training programs for teachers and parents of gay youth;

Drug Abuse

30. Governments are urged to increase resources on drug abuse prevention programs. Such programs have been shown to be effective, both economically and in terms of human potential. Prevention is partly achieved by reducing youth demand (UN focus areas; Participation, Development and Peace), increasing the training of medical staff, and inviting the participation of youths who have recovered from drug addiction to act as role models for youth. Prevention programs must be flexible and based on community need and a strong theoretical framework that assumes problems are complex, multi-dimensional and dynamic, involving individual behaviors, psychological dynamics, and family and social issues;

31. Governments and health departments or agencies, are encouraged to sponsor clinical studies that gather information on state of the art treatment approaches and modalities in drug aouse rehabilitation. This information should then be disseminated in culturally appropriate language, and training provided in the selected rehabilitation regime so that related disciplines become knowledgeable and the techniques can become widely implemented;

32. Governments need to appreciate the influence of social structures, laws, environment, values, culture, and other social factors when dealing with drug-abuse. Community partnerships must be established with law enforcement, schools, business community, youth and families in order for prevention programs to be effective. . Policies should be problem-oriented and strategies must be comprehensive in scope;

33. Governments are encouraged to enforce regulation that discourage marketing practices that target youth for products which are harmful (tobacco and alcohol) or dangerous (guns). They should endorse environmental advocacy to minimize impact of constant exposure to alcohol/tobacco messages and to develop appropriate norms regarding use and sanction of legal drugs;

34. Governments should ratify United Nations conventions regarding drug abuse and initiate international cooperation in implementing these conventions. In particular, governments should provide financial support activities that prevent and combat drug abuse and insure that assets seized and foreclosed on drug operators are directed to these activities;

35. In reducing the use of alcohol and tobacco among youth, governments and local businesses need to view economic priorities in wider perspective and to focus on non-economic incentives (e.g. public health and safety). The funneling of funds from tax on alcohol and tobacco to drug treatment and other community-based programs will promote social responsibility and provide funding for local prevention programs;

36. Governments should insure that law enforcing agencies are involved in implementing prevention policies as well as violation enforcement;

37. Governments and local authorities need to ensure that local agencies, mass media, and school advertise the consequences of risk-behaviors and identify the magnitude of the problem.

Annex

The goal of the International Symposium was to make a substantive contribution to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth. The participants at the Symposium endorsed with enthusiasm the spirit and content of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth and propose to enhance and strengthen the initiatives of the World Conference. With this in mind, the Secretariat made additional efforts to highlight concise statements for Governmental participants to consider at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to from 8 to 12 August 1998, in Lisbon, Portugal.

These proposed enhancements emanate from the belief that the exchange of;

Skills, knowledge and experience among countries with similar or comparable structures and composition, or having historical, cultural, linguistic or other links, with respect to their youth population would be a particularly fertile form of international cooperation. Besides the transfer of specific skills and technologies, the exchange of experience regarding the wide array of practices relating to youth could also constitute an area for technical co-operation among developing countries. In regions which include both developed and developing countries, side by side, the rich opportunities for mutual learning and co-operation in training and research should be vigorously explored and promoted.

Information and experience at the international level is an effective means of stimulating progress and encouraging the adoption of measures to respond to the economic and social conditions of youth. Countries with different political, economic and social systems and cultures, and at different stage of development have benefitted from the common knowledge of problems, difficulties and achievements and from solutions worked out jointly.

Research results and theoretical perspectives at meetings and seminars have proved most valuable in providing a regional and international exchange of information and experience. These could focus, *inter alia*, on promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and on monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth.

Reference to exchange of information is highlighted in paragraph 41 of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth (WCMRY/1998), which is concerned with the establishment of a world Youth Institute. The International Symposium propose that paragraph 41 is enhanced to read as follows (suggested inclusions are underlined);

Allocate the necessary facilities and funding, in co-operation with the private sector, NGO's and

academic institutions, to the planning and establishment of a world Youth Institute for information gathering, research, training and provision of advisory services, and exchange among and between developing and developed countries, to better address youth related issues.